been raised regarding the NCF-2005, you will set up a mechanism to be able to deal with those issues? And, 'b' is, as far as schoolbooks ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only 'a' please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: This is in the future. As far as schoolbooks already in circulation are concerned, how far has the process of detoxification gone? Because, the first assurance given by the Ministry was that all the communal readings of history will be removed. So, how far has that gone? That is what we want to know.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, India's pluralistic and diverse culture has always been the heart of the national curriculum. And, mentions of cultural perspectives and its linkages to the making of contemporary would are expected to evoke a positive response from the students also. With regard to the assurance that she has been asking for, it will be looked into.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Sir. When there are umpteen number of leading, outstanding, tennis players in the country, what made Mr. Chandra Sekar Reddy to be so much enamoured on Sania Mirza alone? ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, this is a question already answered by ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question is not directed to the Minister. It is directed to you Mr. Chandra Sekar Reddy. Please reply.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I will answer when I become a Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, that's right.

**Rates charged by private operators**

*24. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various private operators charge different rates, from their mobile phone subscribers, than the rates charged by the Government companies;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of the guidelines and directions of TRAI in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against the erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Tariff for telecom services is under forbearance, except in the case of rural subscribers in fixed services, roaming services in mobile telephony and ceiling for leased circuits. Service Providers have flexibility to offer any tariff, subject to certain regulatory principles, including Interconnection Usage Charges compliance. At present, the Service Providers are offering plans, which vary in term of combination of monthly rental, call charges and free call allowance suiting to the requirement of various categories of customers. Different tariff plans of Government and private companies could be different in terms of rentals, call charges etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Sir, my supplementary quesiton is this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has initiated any steps to modernise the telecom services in the country in the present scenario of growing competition from the private telecom companies.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, although the supplementary is not related to the main question. I can still answer the hon. Member's question. This is a continuous process and all, including the public sector units and the private sector units, are continuously modernising the telecom facility in India.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Sir, my second supplementary question is, what are the steps the Government is taking to ensure qualitative and satisfactory service by the private telecom companies to the customers?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the area of service provider is more of a competitive environment. Both, private and public sector units are

participating to meet the consumers' demands. The way India is growing, telecom sector is growing enormously. Sir, since the UPA Government took over, we have been adding 1.24 million subscribers a month. Last December, we added nearly 4.7 million subscribers. This January, we have added 5.4 million subscribers. And, Sir, this is the first sector which is overtaking China in adding new subscribers per month.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister, especially, the UPA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: यह कहने की जरूरत ही नहीं थी।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I will come to the question. Sir, the scheme which they are going to launch, that is, One India Scheme, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, one rupee STD call. This is an achievement of this Government, which I would like to place on record. Sir, while appreciating the hon. Minister, I have got a question to ask on the differential tariffs. Sir, there is a lot of variance in the same scheme which has been announced by the BSNL and the other private operators. The question put by the hon. Member was that only. Then, Sir, you have several schemes for corporate sector or for individual or for businessmen. You have got different schemes. Same schemes are being introduced by the private operators. But, there is a difference between the public sector and the private sector and the private sector people are charging more. That is the main question here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he could bring a scheme which should be equal for both, the private sector and the public sector. Otherwise, why do you invite private sector here?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, through you, the hon. Member has asked a very valid question. As per the various systems that are functioning, TRAI is the authority for pricing. As per the TRAI guidelines, any service provider can provide 25 alternative schemes to its subscribers. Basically, by the One India Scheme — I should say this is the first time in India. I think, even in the world—India has taken the lead by breaking the barriers of distance. In fact, we have said death to distance, for anyone can call from Kanyakumari to Kashmir for just a rupee. This is also the first Public Sector Unit which has taken the lead whereas the private sector has yet to take. I can also tell the hon. Member that it is just a matter of weeks when private sector will also be trying to give similar rates to match this One-India Scheme.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: No. What about the other scheme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: My question is about different schemes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

**Transmission capacity of Purnea Akashwani Kendra in Bihar**

*25. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission capacity of Purnea Akashwani Kendra in Bihar is very low and as a result thereof the programmes broadcast by the said Kendra are not audible clearly in the areas around it, especially in Katihar;

(b) whether Government are planning to install new Akashwani Kendra in Katihar; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government for increasing the capacity of the said Akashwani Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) A 6 kW FM transmitter is working satisfactorily at Purnea. The reception of this transmitter of Katihar town is good. However, some parts in the southern area of the Katihar district are not covered adequately by the AIR FM transmitter at Purnea.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, there is no approved scheme to increase the power of transmitter at Purnea.

श्री तारीक अनवर: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी उस क्षेत्र से वाकिफ है क्योंकि मेरा और उनका दोनों क्षेत्र जुड़े हुए हैं। सर, वहां बहुत पिछड़ापन है और स्थिति बहुत खराब है। वहां बिजली भी उपलब्ध नहीं है और 4-5 महीने लोग कट में डूबे रहते हैं। ऐसी परिस्थिति में वहां लोग सिर्फ आकाशवाणी पर निर्भर करते हैं जबकि दूसरी तरफ बी॰बी॰सी॰, वॉइस ऑफ अमेरिका व कई पश्चिमी देशों का रिसेप्सन कहीं बेहतर है। इसलिए लोग आकाशवाणी के बजाय बी॰बी॰सी॰,